Disaster News

DISASTER AID REACHES $3.4 MILLION

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – State and federal assistance to Californians affected by the December-January floods has topped $3.4 million, state and federal officials announced today.

More than 2,880 people have registered for federal and state assistance online at www.fema.gov or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or (TTY) **1-800-462-7585**. Both phone lines are open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Federal disaster housing assistance grants totaling $2,879,391 have been approved for 990 households in the 10 counties declared eligible for disaster assistance. An additional $583,506 in federal and state funding has been approved for 243 households to meet other disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other sources.

Inspectors from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have inspected 1,950 residences so far to determine the extent of damage and possible level of assistance.

To date, 1,436 people have visited the assistance centers set up to answer questions and provide information for registrants. The centers are operating in 10 counties, with hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Home owners, renters and business owners are eligible for assistance in Contra Costa, Del Norte, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Sacramento, Siskiyou, Solano and Sonoma counties.

Disaster housing assistance comes in the form of grants for temporary housing needs and for homeowners to make essential repairs. This assistance serves as an interim solution to people's housing needs until long-term solutions are addressed, typically through insurance or loans. Grants are also available to meet other essential disaster-related needs including replacement of lost personal property and disaster-related medical, dental and transportation expenses not covered by insurance or other sources.

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